

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) Protected alcohol with formula (1)



wherein  $R^1$  represents a linear, straight-chain alkyl group having 26-30 C-atoms,  $m$  is 1 or 2, and PG represents a protecting group chosen from the group of substituted methyl ethers, substituted ethyl ethers, substituted benzyl ethers and (substituted) silyl ethers with at least one substituent on the Si-atom being not a methyl group, in case  $m = 1$ ; and a diol protecting group in case  $m = 2$ , with the proviso that PG is no saccharide.

2. (original) Process for the preparation of a protected alcohol according formula (1)



wherein  $R^1$  represents a linear, straight-chain alkyl group having 26-30 C-atoms,  $m$  is 1 or 2, and PG represents a protecting group chosen from the group of substituted methyl ethers, (substituted) ethyl ethers, (substituted) benzyl ethers and (substituted) silyl ethers with at least one substituent on the Si-atom being not a methyl group, in case  $m = 1$ ; and a diol protecting group in case  $m = 2$ , with the proviso that PG is no saccharide, via an organometallic cross coupling reaction wherein a linear, straight-chain nucleophilic organometallic reagent of formula  $RCH_2M_1$  is reacted with a linear, straight-chain electrophile of formula  $LG-CH_2-A-O-(O)_m PG$  (or a linear, straight-chain electrophile of formula  $RCH_2-LG$  with a nucleophilic organometallic reagent of formula  $(M_1CH_2-A-O)_m PG$ ), wherein  $R$  is H or a linear, straight-chain alkyl group with 1-28 C-atoms,  $M_1$  represents Li, Na, K,  $BZ_2$ , wherein each Z independently represents OH, an

alkyl group or an alkoxy group, or the 2 Z-groups together form a hydrocarbon ring, MgX, wherein X=halogen, ZnX, wherein X=halogen or CH<sub>2</sub>Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, or MnX, wherein X=halogen, A is a C<sub>0-28</sub> linear, straight-chain alkylene group, LG represents a leaving group, and m and PG are as described above.

3. (original) Process according to claim 2, wherein the organometallic cross coupling reaction is performed in the presence of a transition metal catalyst and wherein M<sup>1</sup> represents MgX with X is halogen.

4. (original) Process according to claim 3, wherein the nucleophilic organometallic reagent reacts with an alkyl halide, alkyl arylsulfonate or alkyl mesylate.

5. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 2-4~~ claim 2, wherein first the protected alcohol with formula (1) is prepared according to ~~any one of claims 2-4~~ claim 2 and subsequently the protected alcohol is subjected to deprotection.